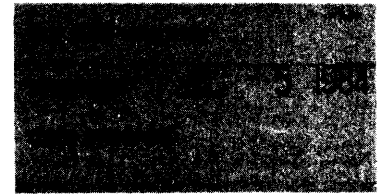


United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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Name: Beecher Smith House (PUS-23)

Location: 405 College St.,  
Somerset, KY

Owner: Mr. Andrew Mounce  
405 College Street  
Somerset, KY 42501

Classification: Building

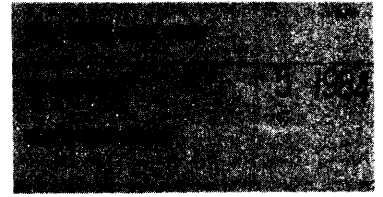
Description: The Beecher-Smith House is an excellent example of the Beaux-Arts residential style of the early 20th century. Constructed ca. 1905, the house is a rectangular two-story brick structure resting on a cut limestone foundation. The most prominent feature of the house is the two-story portico on the main facade supported by paired Doric motif columns. At the eave and roof of the portico are modillion blocks, dentils and a balustrade. Running the width of the main facade is a one story porch with Tuscan columns and terra cotta Ionic capitals. The hipped roof is covered with clay tiles and display three gable dormer windows. The central dormer features a large Palladian window with leaded glass. Flanking the central dormer are smaller dormers with multi-light casement windows. Windows are one-over-one sash with ashlar stone sills and rusticated stone lintels. The main entrance displays sidelights and a tri-part transom separated by engaged Corinthian pilasters. On the north facade is a one-story porte-cochere with Doric columns.

Of almost equal importance to the main house are the outbuildings. The most significant of these is the two-story Gothic style carriage house which is in excellent condition. This carriage house is of brick construction and features a castellated tower with crenellations and corner buttresses. Projecting from the central tower is a frame bay with four sash windows. At the corners of the building are rusticated stone quoins. Two pairs of wooden double doors are located on the ground story, one of which is set within a rounded arch with brick relief molding. The roof still exhibits the original multi-colored slate tile covering and hipped dormer windows are located on each of the elevations. A second outbuilding is the one-story servants quarters constructed of brick. This small residence has one-over-one sash windows and a multi-colored slate roof.

Significance: The Beecher Smith House is one of the outstanding homes in Somerset. It is the only example of residential Beaux-Arts classicism in the county and is a distinguished example of this style. Features of the house include the paired Doric motif columns, Palladian dormer window and exuberant detailing throughout the structure. The carriage house, built in the Gothic style, is also a noteworthy structure with its crenellated tower, bay window and original slate roof. This lot was purchased by Beecher Smith in the early 1900s and he constructed this large two-story house and outbuildings. Beecher Smith was a self made millionaire who had the largest wholesale grocery business in

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southeast Kentucky. Smith also had lumber and coal interests as well as real estate. Smith also owned controlling stock in Somerset's Beecher Hotel which was named for him upon its construction. Since Smith's death in 1952 the house has been occupied by his descendants and it remains in excellent condition.

Acreage: 1.05

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary encompassing the property is designated as lot 4 of block 46 as shown on Somerset tax maps.

UTM References: (Somerset Quadrangle) 16/712910/4108250